

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

OCTOBER 23, 2012

Expanding Foster Care Education Programs

Youth who are in foster care are widely considered to be among the most at-risk population in Los Angeles County; of particular import is the transition from foster care to adulthood. Education wields an important role for foster youth as they embark on the pathway to achieve self-sufficiency. Data from the Los Angeles Unified School District suggests that students involved in the Child Welfare system and the Probation system perform lower than regular students, at the senior high level on the California Standards Test (CST), 4% of the students involved in the Child welfare system and 2.4% of students in the Probation system scored proficient or advanced, compared to 9.8% District wide. Less than half (42.1%) of students involved in the Child Welfare system have passed the English Language Arts section in the California High School Exit Exam (CASHEE) and 33.9% have passed the Math section. Research demonstrates that foster youth, faced with a myriad of challenges, often fare worse than non-foster youth

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MOLINA _____

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on standardized tests and report higher dropout rates, absenteeism and truancy. Reversing these risk factors that lead to incarceration requires expanding the educational opportunities available for foster youth.

On December 14, 2011, as part of the Enhanced and Expanded Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Capped Allocation Demonstration Project, the Board of Supervisors approved the expansion of the countywide Foster Youth Education Program (FYEP), established by Supervisor Gloria Molina, to better address the educational needs of foster youth. The expansion of FYEP from a pilot to a countywide program entails the placement of Child Social Workers and Deputy Probation Officers at 19 newly participating schools. These Child Social Workers and Deputy Probation Officers will provide tutoring, academic enrichment, credit recovery, and other support services to foster and probation youth attending those schools. Advancement through Opportunity and Knowledge, Inc., also known as Children Youth and Family Collaborative (CYFC), has been providing these services to support the pilot through the "Investing in Innovation (i3)" federal grant that was awarded in 2011.

As a result of the pilot's success, the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) proposed a sole source contract with CYFC to expand the services countywide. Subsequently, on February 8, 2012, DCFS received approval from the California Department of Social Services for a two-year sole source contract, and on May 15, 2012, notified the Board of Supervisors of its intent to negotiate a sole source contract with CYFC. The negotiations, which began June 4, 2012, are expected to be

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finalized this month. The term of the proposed contract will be from November 30, 2012 through June 30, 2013, at a cost not to exceed \$1.3 million, with an option to extend for one year from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, at a cost not to exceed \$1.6 million.

THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS authorize the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), or his designee to:

1. Execute the contract with Children Youth and Family Collaborative (CYFC) for the period from November 30, 2012 through June 30, 2013;
2. Exercise the optional one-year renewal of the contract by written notice to CYFC if sufficient funding is available;
3. Execute amendments to increase or decrease the contract sum limited to ten percent (10%) of the original maximum contract sum in response to any unforeseen changes in service needs; and
4. Execute amendments for non-material changes, provided that: a) prior County Counsel approval is obtained; and b) the Director of DCFS notifies the Board of Supervisors and Chief Executive Officer in writing within 10 working days of the amendment.

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